

Here are some thoughts on how to improve FS involvement in the SEE team efforts.

1. The FS often is not aware of the process, especially when a District Ranger might have one of these types of projects during his tenure on the District. I work with the State DOT's and FHWA so I understand what happens when, but often others are not. Road projects often look way off in the future and our engineered plans are often intimidating to those unfamiliar with the drawings. Formal correspondence usually goes to the Forest Supervisor which should continue as is, but cc's to others is a must to get your info to the correct person (even if they may not want it). I would recommend that cc's be sent to the District Ranger of the Forest that the project is located on and the Forest Engineer in the Supervisor's Office.

If the Forest only wants one copy sent, they will tell you, but I would not think that would be the case.

2. Even though the Forest might assign a contact person, cc all documents that have timetables or decisions to the District Ranger. Because even though you may have concurrence from the Forest Representative, the District Ranger is the deciding official for that area and you are then assured that he has gotten the accurate information in a timely manner.

3. Discuss the areas of impact to the District that might be outside of the corridor NEPA clearance documents. These could be borrow or waste sites, water for construction activities, utilities, staging areas, contractor access routes, etc. These impacts will need some type of environmental clearances.

4. Educate the District Ranger as to the timetable- working backwards, from the proposed start of construction to the present. That way he can understand that even though the start of construction is two years(or more) or so away, numerous early decisions need to be agreed to so that a firm foundation is built early.

5. Put together a contact list of other Forest Service previous projects and a name to call and use it as a "don't hesitate to call our past clients" reference. You folks do great work, but I am sorry, often others do not. Rangers often hear promises that are not kept. I do not feel that is the case with this program, you folks know how to do the job correctly, but again this may be the only hwy project this Ranger deals with. Hearing the real story from another District Ranger will buy you a world of good will and commitment to a true partnership.

6. Explain the budget process at an early meeting and how projects are selected. This might also be the time review authorities for project decisions.

I don't think any of these are new, but I hope these help reinforce others.

Let me know if any need clarification.

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